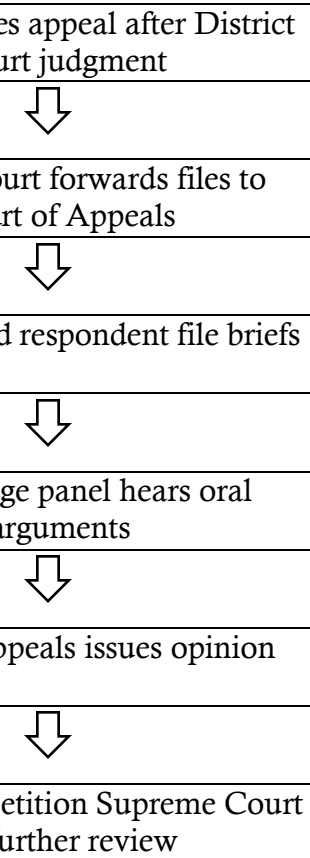


# DOES A CASE THE COURT APPEALS?



o t a  
o f A p p e a l s

a Judicial Center  
r. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
MN 55155

1-297-1000  
m.—5 p.m. Monday–Friday  
ncourts.gov

## Visitor's Guide to Oral Arguments

# Minnesota Court of Appeals



Welcome to the Minnesota Court of Appeals, the state's intermediate appellate court. You are about to hear oral arguments in an appeal. The 19-judge Court of Appeals hears an appeal in a three-judge panel at which no new evidence or testimony are offered. Instead, the Court reviews the decisions and procedures of the lower court or agency and decides whether an error occurred.

## Minnesota Court of Appeals



Chief Judge  
Edward Cleary



Judge  
Randolph  
Peterson



Judge Jill  
Halbrooks



Judge Renee  
Worke



Judge Kevin  
Ross



Judge Heidi  
Schellhas



Judge  
Matthew  
Johnson



Judge  
Michelle  
Larkin



Judge Larry  
Stauber



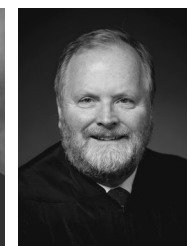
Judge Louise  
Dovre  
Bjorkman



Judge John  
Rodenberg



Judge Carol  
Hooten



Judge Michael  
Kirk



Judge John  
Smith



Judge Denise  
Reilly



Judge Peter  
Reyes

## What happens during arguments?

**Judge calls court to audience stands.** The judge calls the audience to court- room. The judge maintains court- room decorum and ensures attorneys adhere to court- room regulations.

**Judges enter the courtroom.** Court of Appeals cases are heard in three-judge panels. Prior to arguments, judges enter the courtroom by reading “briefs,” written arguments submitted by the parties. The judges sit in order of seniority, with the most senior judge in the center.

**Plaintiff’s attorney presents the case.** The plaintiff’s attorney representing the plaintiff also asks the judges’ questions. The plaintiff’s attorney has 15 minutes to present. Fifteen minutes are allotted with five minutes for rebuttal. The defendant’s attorney presents the case and answers the plaintiff’s questions. The defendant’s attorney has 15 minutes to present. Fifteen minutes are allotted with five minutes for rebuttal.

- **Judges conference the case.** One judge is assigned to draft the Court’s “opinion” or decision, which is discussed during conference.
- **Judges draft and revise the opinion.** The draft is circulated among the members of the three-judge panel. A judge on the panel may also write a “concurring opinion” – agreeing with the decision but for different reasons – or a “dissenting opinion” – disagreeing with the majority opinion. Once the judges agree on a final draft, the opinion is circulated to the entire Court of Appeals for comments.
- **Opinion filed with Clerk of Appellate Courts, released to public via the Judicial Branch web site [www.mncourts.gov](http://www.mncourts.gov).** The Court of Appeals releases its opinion within 90 days.



Minnesota Judicial Center, St. Paul

## Courtroom decorum

**Please help us maintain courtroom decorum.** Important issues are decided based on oral arguments. Therefore, it is critical that the judges and attorneys work without distraction. Please abide by the following while in court:

- Sit in the audience area of the courtroom. Standing is prohibited during oral arguments.
- Remain silent during the proceedings.
- Refrain from eating, drinking, chewing gum or using tobacco.
- Remove hats before entering the courtroom.
- No demonstrations are allowed, including signs, banners or displays of symbols.
- Electronic recording devices are prohibited, except as permitted for the media.
- Turn off all pagers and wireless telephones before entering the courtroom.

## How many cases does the Court of Appeals handle?

More than 2,200 appeals are filed each year from:

- District Court decisions (except first-degree murder).
- Administrative agency decisions (except Tax and Veterans Compensation Commission).

## When do oral arguments occur?

- Year-round in courtrooms 100 and 200 in the Minnesota Judicial Center, St. Paul.
- At various Greater St. Paul Minnesota locations to keep litigation costs low and to ensure access to justice.